## Disparities in Diagnosis and Treatment

**Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care.** Fact Sheet, February 2000. AHRQ Publication No. 00-PO41. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.

**Heart Disease.** African Americans are 13 percent less likely to undergo coronary angioplasty and one-third less likely to undergo bypass surgery than are whites.

**Asthma.** Among preschool children hospitalized for asthma, only 7 percent of black and 2 percent of Hispanic children, compared to 21 percent of white children, are prescribed routine medications to prevent future asthma-related hospitalizations.

**Breast cancer.** The length of time between an abnormal screening mammogram and the followup diagnostic test to determine whether a woman has breast cancer is more than twice as long in Asian American, black, and Hispanic women as in white women.

**Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.** African Americans with HIV infection are less likely to be on antiretroviral therapy, less likely to receive prophylaxis for Pneumocystis pneumonia, and less likely to be receiving protease inhibitors than other persons with HIV. An HIV infection data coordinating center, now under development, will allow researchers to compare contemporary data on HIV care to examine whether disparities in care among groups are being addressed, and to identify any new patterns in treatment that arise.

**Nursing home care.** Asian American, Hispanic, and African American residents of nursing homes are all far less likely than white residents to have sensory and communication aids, such as glasses and hearing aids. A new study of nursing home care is developing measures of disparities in this care setting and their relationship to quality care.